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SUBCOMMITTEE:
ELECTIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

August 28, 1964

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Thank you for your reply to my inquiry addressed to the Chief Justice concerning the method of appointing staff members of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

You probably realize my comments were directed at Norman Redlich because of his alleged support of Communist-front activities. My colleague, Congressman Johansen, indicated that Mr. Redlich had maintained his membership on the National Council of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee which has been identified by two Congressional Committees and the F.B.I. as a Communist-front activity.

If this is true, it seems exceedingly strange that a man of this background would be appointed to a Commission investigating the circumstances of the assassination of President Kennedy by a Communist oriented assassin.

I am also led to believe that Congressman Gerald Ford moved for the dismissal of Norman Redlich from the Commission and that his motion was overruled. If this is true, it would seem unusual that the members of the staff were unanimously cleared by all of the Commissioners. A copy of your letter is being sent to Congressman Ford for his comments.

Sincerely,

Samuel L. Devine

Samuel L. Devine
Representative to Congress

SLD/mp
cc: Gerald Ford, M.C.